

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Vale!

It was only the other day that we welcomed Dr. Freni Manchershaw, the first South African Indian lady doctor to Durban. We felt that there was room in such a large town of Durban and Greater Durban for a highly qualified woman doctor. Her surgery was opened in Queen St and it was thought that full advantage would be taken by the members of the Indian community. It is now very regrettable to note that for want of support she has decided to transfer her services elsewhere and has sailed for India with that object in view. It is true she has only been for about ten months practising in Durban, whether that is a sufficient period especially for a doctor and particularly when there are other practitioners already in the field to establish oneself on a firm footing is rather doubtful. Dr Freni Manchershaw has decided to plant her colours in India where her services will be better appreciated, we wish her well, and in bidding farewell, we hope that she would someday come back to us where a hearty welcome always awaits her.

Indian Ward In Vereeniging Hospital

The Agent of the Government of India, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, performed the opening ceremony of the Indian section of the general hospital at Vereeniging which was opened by Mr. S. P. Bekker, the Administrator of the Transvaal on December 8.

Indian Reforms In A Nutshell

Addressing a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society of Scotland on the geographical background of an Indian constitution. Lord Meston, formerly finance member of the Viceroy's Council, is reported to have said that the constitution which was in prospect for India was now sub judice, and although it would be rash and indeed wrong to try to say much about it, this much at least was sure—that the whole structure would differ considerably from any other constitution with which they were familiar. Although it would contain certain features of our Dominion systems it could not conform to any of these, still less to any of the leading federal systems throughout the Empire.

According to Lord Meston, then, India will get a constitution which will be indescribably peculiar. Whereas India had asked for nothing more than what any free country enjoys. Lord Meston's observation on the proposed India's new constitution is significant and requires no further comment.

Malanite Congress On Non-Europeans

The Malanite Congress which was held in Orange Free State last week has decided among other things that the Government should introduce legislation whereby non Europeans be prohibited from driving motors and motor transport vehicles belonging to Europeans, and that no posts in the civil service for which Europeans were available should be filled by non-Europeans. It would have been wise for Congress to have said at the same time what it proposed doing with the non-Europeans who would, as an inevitable result of its policy, be walking the streets without work.

The Congress Criticised

The following letter appears above the signature Abdul Siddick, Box 7840, Johannesburg, in *The Star* :—

Sir,—The Indian waiters to day are suffering because of the salaries that are paid to them as a direct result of legislation which has graded the trade. Although Indians are capable of being classed as first grade waiters they are invariably put down in the third grade, because of their colour, and because the legislation which affects the catering trade calls for payment on a high scale which is paid to the white waiters. In the tailoring trade there are hundreds of Indian employees who are adversely affected by the industrial legislation. Licences are being refused all over the city, and Indian landlords are facing ruin in Sophiatown and Newclare by the Urban Areas Act. What are our Congress leaders doing? The Congress stands to-day at the bar of Indian public opinion, self condemned for inactivity and want of courage to tackle thorny questions which call for statesmanship and leadership. Congress may claim to represent the community and may cast a veil over the eyes of officials and the general European public who are interested in Indian affairs, but the Indians

know the true position and the state of the Congress and its workings.

Diet as a Crime Deterrent

Although we do not believe that the Government will ever agree to the following cruel and monstrous suggestion which we cull from the *Natal Advertiser* it indicates to what depths the Europeans are determined to go to make it impossible for the Indians to remain in this country. Even an attack on their religion is of no consequence to them. "Diet, it is said," says our contemporary "may act as a deterrent to crime, for the forbidden meat, pork in cases of Muslims and beef for Hindus, will, in future, be the gaol diet for Indian prisoners. Loss of religion and caste has been threatened by this innovation. Indians, who have been brought up in the traditional manner, will find meat diet the severest form of punishment inflicted in gaol. The change which emanated from the recent conference of all Prisoners' Aid Associations held in Bloemfontein, was, it is learnt, discussed at a Maritzburg meeting, and so strong was the feeling against the proposal that there was a possibility of a "walk-out" of the Indian members. The item was allowed to pend until more information was available from the Director of Prisons. In the meantime, the decision to provide a uniform diet, without acknowledging any religious scruples, has been a subject of increasing resentment among Indians. It has been pointed out that one of the principal causes of the Indian Mutiny was the compulsory use of animal fat while nothing so drastic has been contemplated among both Muslims and Hindus, they regard the change as an attack on their religions.

Arbitrators Under The Slums Act

The Durban Town Council at the meeting held last Monday agreed to the following persons as suitable for inclusion under the provisions of the Slums Act in the panel of arbitrators:

Mr. A. R. Midgley, Eastbourne Road, contractor.

Mr. J. W. Capstick, 186 Goble Road, contractor.

Mr. F. J. Ing, 33 Nimmo Road, architect,
Mr. H. E. Chick, 197 Lambert Road, architect

Mr. W. M. Fernie, 417 Essenwood Road, estate agent.

Mr. J. T. Cooper, Eastbourne Road, estate agent.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 1934

NEW CONSTITUTION FOR INDIA

INDIANS in South Africa, placed as they are in a peculiar position, have many problems of their own and this journal has been trying to serve their cause and to create sound public opinion. We cannot, however, entirely ignore the happenings in their Motherland. Because it is a general belief amongst many both in this country and in India that unless the position of India improves our position in this country will not improve as desired by us. We claim equality with the Europeans and the latter point out to us: "In your own country you have no freedom and how do you expect equality and freedom in this country?" Humanly speaking there may be some argument in such a sentiment but our claim of equality in this country is based entirely on a different ground. However, we are not discussing the point here to-day. We are discussing a few points from the debate on the Joint Select Committee's Report on Indian Constitution. In a previous issue we made a few general observations on the proposed constitutional reform in India and pointed out how, in the name of "safeguards" all the key positions were to be kept by the Viceroy and the Governors, and that real self-government was denied to India. In the course of the debate on the "White Paper" in British Parliament on Monday last Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary for India is reported to have said, "the scheme is not the work of constitutional theorists but alike in its three great principles of provincial autonomy, All India Federation, and responsibility with safeguards and also in regard to these safeguards, the constitution sprung up from "stubborn irreducible facts of the problem."

Sir Samuel put two questions to the Parliament: (1) Will this complicated constitution actually work? (2) Is there a substantial body of public men in India who can work the constitution? Replying to the first question Sir Samuel said: "they would probably suffer many disappointments and that the constitution would develop on other lines than those of Westminster." In replying to the second question the Secretary for India was much more guarded and was a little uneasy, for he admitted that "few Indian men would express their satisfaction with the scheme and that in the elections for the Assembly it was the opponents of the proposed measures who scored."

We are not constitutional lawyers but we can see the viewpoint of the Indian National Congress. Sir Samuel says: "the constitution has sprung from stubborn irreducible facts of the problems." But we think there is a fundamental difference between the Indian and the

British viewpoint of looking at the stubborn irreducible facts." The Indians say: "India first" as all other dominions herald their own dominion first. But the British viewpoint says: "Safeguards first" —or in other words—"British interests and Imperial interests first." We can see these are the fundamental differences, otherwise there would be certainly mention at least in the proposed reform that the safeguards are to be put on for a certain period. But there is no mention of the whole White Paper. As such it is evident that Britain does not mean "real independence" to India. She is only offering shadow of independence to India and, as Sir Samuel has expressed in answer to his first question, India will develop on other lines than those of Westminster, or in other words, India will never become a Dominion and be full Master of herself both internally and externally. Mr. Churchill said the same thing two years ago though he had put it very bluntly.

That India will not accept the proposed constitution has been admitted by Sir Samuel himself.

Indeed, India will never accept a constitution unless she is given equality of status with other nations and left entirely to herself for free association and partnership with others. The labour party which has less "Imperial temperament" has deplored the absence of any reference to "Dominion Status." We, for ourselves, do the same and hope that the sympathisers of India outside India will realise what kind of constitutional advance Britain is going to give India through the White Paper.

India will have to go through a lot of more suffering and sacrifice before she can win her battle of freedom and liberty.

PORT'S CORNER.

THE MORTAL SOUL.

*Too curious man! why dost thou seek
seek to know*

*Events which—good or ill—foreknown
are woe?*

*The All-Seeing Power which made
these mortal gave*

*Thee everything a mortal state
should have.*

*Foreknowledge only is enjoyed by
Heaven,*

*And, for his peace of mind, to man
forbidden:*

*Wretched were life if he foreknew
his doom;*

*Even joys foreseen give pleasing hope
no room,*

*And griefs assured are felt before
they come.*

—DRYDEN.

THE THINGS WE'VE FORGOTTEN.

Twenty Years Ago

EXTRACTS FROM "INDIAN OPINION,"
December 16, 1914

Reports INDIAN OPINION:

Commander's Address to the Troops

The following is Sir James Wilcocks' address to the Indian troops under his command, dated October 4th, issued when they were brought into the actual field of battle:—

Soldiers of the Indian Army Corps,

WE have all read with pride the gracious message of his Majesty the King-Emperor to his troops from India. On the eve of going into the field to join our British comrades who have covered themselves with glory in this great war, it is our firm resolve to prove ourselves worthy of the honour which has been conferred on us as representatives of the Army of India. In a few days we shall be fighting as has never been our good fortune to fight before, and against enemies who have a long history. But is their history as long as yours? You are the descendants of men who have been mighty rulers and great warriors for many centuries. You will never forget this! You will recall the glories of your race. Hindu and Mahomedan will be fighting side by side with British soldiers, and our gallant French Allies. You will be helping to make history. You will be the first Indian soldiers of the King-Emperor who will have the honour of showing in Europe that the sons of India have lost none of their ancient martial instincts and are worthy of the confidence reposed in them. In battle you will remember that your religions enjoin on you that to give your life doing your duty is your highest reward. The eyes of your co-religionists and your fellow countrymen are on you. From the Himalayan Mountains, the banks of the Ganges and the Indus, and the plains of Hindustan, they are eagerly waiting for the news of how their brethren conduct themselves when they meet the foe. From the mosques and temples their prayers are ascending to the God of all, and you will answer their hopes by the proofs of your valour. You will fight for your King-Emperor and your faith, so that history will record the doings of India's sons, and your children will proudly tell of the deeds of their fathers.

Fountain of Wisdom

Five great enemies of peace inhabit with us—avarice, ambition, envy, anger and pride; if these were to be banished we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace.—

PETRARCA.

REV. DU TOIT ON NATIONALISM

“WHEN South Africa shall have rid herself of a foreign king and a dual citizenship when the British flag shall no longer fly over our land and when we shall no longer hear ‘God Save the King’ played and sung here, then and not before shall we be truly free,” said the Rev. W. du Toit, M.P. for Colesberg, recently in the course of a significant speech at a meeting of Malanites in the Masonic Hall at Krugersdorp.

There were at present no fewer than seven political parties, he said, and it was essential that the public should take an intelligent interest in politics and a serious view of things now, lest the same happened that happened in 1914 when South Africa was dragged into a world war by an Imperialistic Government from which General Hertzog had been removed.

The war divided the nation socially, religiously, in the home and school as well as politically. The present Government was cut to do the same. Already Mr. Fourie was telling the Cape to follow General Hertzog “blind-folded.”

“South Africa is to-day governed by uitlanders and foreign interests, for the leaders of our country are mere pawns in the hands of foreign interests,” said Mr. du Toit.

One had but to turn to what was happening to-day in South-West Africa to see that. An inspired statement—inspired by General Hertzog—had appeared in the Press to serve as a warning against the “foreign influences” that were supposed to be endangering the position in that part of the land. But what about the Sons of England as a foreign influence in the Union? Why did General Hertzog not object to that? Our very Government Executive had a foreign king, 7,000 miles away, as its head. In Natal General Smuts had quite rightly compared the Government with the British Empire League.

Mr. Amery, formerly Dominion Secretary of State, visited South Africa in 1927 and made the remark that it would be correct to say of the British Empire what was meant by the expression: “The kingdom of heaven is within you,” for it was correct to say to-day, “Now the British Empire is within you.”

History Of Coalition.

On February 5th 1933, General Hertzog had sent for a reporter of *Die Burger* to repudiate and deny a statement that coalition was contemplated by him. It was on a Sunday. *Die Burger* appeared on Monday morning with that denial. He remembered the date well, for it was the day of Mr. O. W. Malan’s sudden death. The same Monday General Hertzog discussed coalition with his caucus. When asked why he had repudiated the statement in the Press that he was con-

templating the step, Mr. Havenga replied: “That was a diplomatic denial.”

At a meeting in the Free State recently General Hertzog had admitted that he had discussed the question of coalition with the late Mr. O. W. Malan, who died the very day the General’s denial appeared in the Press.

Quoting from the *Journal of Parliaments of the Empire*, Mr. du Toit said that Mr. Chamberlain had stated that Britain would have to make good her loss of trade in the outside world by getting it from within the Empire. But Britain, said Mr. du Toit, remembered the Empire only when she was selling her own wares, not when buying. South Africa had bought—in 1933—£24,000,000 worth from England and Britain had bought only £8,000,000 from South Africa. That was her policy, for she had bought only £19,000,000 worth of meat from within the Empire and £62,000,000 from outside suppliers. She was actually responsible for quotas operating against Empire meat. Sir Herbert Samuel had said of this policy, “Britain is adopting a policy of rigid economic nationalism which makes the United Kingdom more and more self-sufficient, and excludes goods coming even from her own Dominions.”

Mr. Amery had said: “The position under the Argentine Treaty was that not only that they were not obliged to give any preferences to their own Dominions in the matter of chilled beef but they were obliged to veto the development of the chilled beef industry in the Dominions. No wonder that the Dominions were being forced to look elsewhere for trade.”

The British Connection

Speaking of the British connection, Mr. du Toit said that the political aspect was not the primary consideration, for it ranked only third. Trade and military connections preceded it.

Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Mr. Patrick Duncan and General Smuts had all repeatedly emphasised that this connection had been immensely strengthened. One could reply, with the late General de Wet, that one could beat off a frontal attack, but when one’s own people stabbed one’s nation in the back, as the old Nationalists leaders had done in this “vereniging” of the parties, it became necessary to warn the public.

With Mr. Gandhi, he could say that the British connection was a danger because it became a British complex. That was what General Hertzog and other former trusted leaders were forcing upon the nation. The result was that the Afrikaner people were being wrenched away from what they held dear. Away from their traditions they were bought over with small jobs as locust officers. National honour among Afrikaners was being undermined.—*The Star* (Johannesburg).

TRANSFER OF THE PROTECTORATES

IN an address to the Natal Debating Society on November 29, on the question of the transfer of the Protectorates of Basutoland, Swaziland, and Bechuanaland, the Rev. John L. Dube, founder-principal of the Ohlange Institute, Phoenix, Natal, Provincial President of the Natal Native College, made a vigorous indictment on South Africa’s Native policy and the lack of it. A very large audience was present.

“Under the chaotic conditions of Native policy and the apparent apathy towards Native affairs generally on the part of our legislators, it is premature to move towards incorporation of the Protectorates with the Union,” the reverend gentleman said. “I voice the feelings of a very important section of the Native population and I need no further evidence than the fact that almost a decade has passed without the definite policy which was promised in 1925.”

Mr. Dube explained that a Parliamentary Select Committee had been appointed in 1935 to go into the question of Native affairs. A report was presented to the Government, but the report was still a guarded secret as far as the Natives were concerned.

“There is not yet a definite Native policy in the Union. That in itself is sufficient argument for opposing incorporation of the Protectorates.”

He considered that the land policy in regard to Natives should be examined. In 1913 he had led a deputation to England to protest against the Native Land Act and he had been told that General Botha had promised further land for the Natives. Up till now that promise has not been fulfilled, he said. The Act of 1913 worked in part, and that part was in so far as it effected the segregation of the Natives, but in the section which dealt with the land of the Natives it did not work. The most important thing in the Native mind was land and almost all troubles were concerning land.

The recent unrest in the Embo tribe had been caused by a dispute over land. Queen Victoria had promised to Cetywayo, when he returned to Zululand after the Zulu War, that none of the land held by the Zulus would be taken away; yet successive Commissioners had been sent to Zululand and land had been taken away and given to Europeans.

“How can we whose land has been taken away subscribe to any scheme that allows the Protectorates to come under this Government?”

Mr. Dube further pointed out that Colour Bar was inhuman in that it made Natives work under severe limitations. Commerce in South Africa was blind to its own interests. There was no other country with such an asset as Native labour here, yet that asset had been repressed, crushed and discriminated against. “You should pay him a little more and he will spend it and transform your country,” he concluded.

Mr. Hugh Bryan supported the Rev. J. L. Dube, saying that the Europeans educated the Natives and then refused to allow them the fruits of their education.

OUR INDIA LETTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

GROWING RESTLESSNESS OF INDIAN YOUTHS

MR. C. F. ANDREWS, speaking at the Friends' House a week ago pleaded for patience in dealing with the youth of India. The Youth problem in India, he said, was a part of the world problem but it appeared in a severer form. Indian youths, educated in universities, were unable to find employment and were growing restless. He urged the authorities to recognise this symptom of the disease and not to treat youths as criminals. He strongly appealed to the authorities to release Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and reconsider their policy regarding detenus. He expressed the opinion that the authorities ought to remove the ban upon Mr. Gandhi. It was of vital consequence to the welfare of India that the Viceroy and others in authority should be able to consult Mahatma Gandhi and to ascertain his ideas by personal contact.

An Outworn Political Creed

Sir James Fitzpatrick, Agent to the Governor-General in the Native States of Punjab in a frewell function said that the old patriarchal system of government had passed away in British India and the Indian States must sooner or later follow suit. "New political theories are in the air and your subjects cannot but be affected by the repercussions of movements among their neighbours even

though they still revere their rulers and pay homage to the doctrine of the Divine Right of Princes as a living reality and not merely an outworn political creed." These were his words of guidance to the Native Rulers of the Punjab

The Northern Frontiers Of India

It is reported that the recent visit to Tibet of General Huang Mu Sung, Special Envoy to represent the National Government of the Republic of China for offering sacrifices to the late Dalai Lama and to bestow a posthumous title on him, has been much appreciated by the people and monks of the land. The Special Envoy also conveyed to the people of Tibet the Chinese Government's goodwill. This friendly attitude is reported to have considerably cemented the breach which has existed in the Sino-Tibetan diplomacy for the last twenty years.

The Prime Minister of Nepal will visit Delhi in the year end. The Ruler of Bhutan will visit Calcutta shortly.

Indians Give Lead

Indian residents of Japan have preserved the Indian tradition of helping any body in trouble and practically every Indian has liberally contributed to help the typhoon victims in Japan. As a result of their lead, Europeans, Chinese, Americans and others have also donated

large sums. The Japanese newspapers have especially appreciated the Indians' lead in the matter. The following is extracted from the Tokyo correspondent's letter to the *Hindustan Times* giving as Japanese newspaper's appreciation. "It must be noted with gratitude that the Indian people have always shown particular sympathy in responding to appeals for help by distressed people."—"Niichi Niichi."

Cricket In India

Major Nayudu, Captain of India's Test teams, presages that the professionalism in cricket must come very soon to put India on a level with other cricketing countries. In less than two years India will be in England again and she will have to play three Test matches and possibly five Tests thereafter. Can India win? The Major maintains that with adequate training of the correct material "India can win."

"There are hundreds of young men in India today who have the makings of great cricketers but who is to look for such talent and undertake the training," he asks.

Mrs. Malaviya Seriously Injured

Mrs. Madan Mohan Malaviya was seriously injured at Allahabad by a runaway "ekka" and horse which knocked her down and ran over her side.

THE 'TEN COMMANDMENTS' OF GERMAN MATING

AN example of the way in which race propaganda is being spread in Germany is found in a brochure published by the Reich Council for the People's Health and printed in thousands—"Ten Commandments for the Choice of a Mate."

The following are the 'commandments' with a brief summary of the explanatory paragraph that accompanies each:—

1. Remember that you are a German.

Young Germans are warned that their lives really belong to the nation and that all their actions must serve the interests of the nation.

2. If you have inherited good health do not remain unwed.

All that you are, your characteristics, your body and spirit are the inheritance, the gift of our forefathers. You live in a continuous chain of generations. Do not break the chain.

3. Keep your body pure.

Guard the health you inherited from your parents to serve the nation.

Beware of trifling with the flippant. What you ask of your mate, ask of your-

self. Remember that you are a German forfather of the future.

4. Keep your mind and soul pure.

Young German men and women are warned to keep their natures free from 'alien influences.'

5. As a German choose your mate from the same blood or from Nordic blood.

This commandment is followed by a lengthy lecture on the importance of keeping the German race pure.

6. When choosing a mate inquire into his antecedents.

You do not only marry you mate, you marry his antecedents also. Valuable progeny can only come from valuable ancestry.

Gifts of understanding are just as much an inheritance as the colour of hair and eyes.

A good man may carry within himself the germs of bad characteristics fatal for the happiness of his children. Therefore, never marry the only good man in a bad family.

In case of doubt about the health of their mate's antecedents, prospective

German wives and husbands are advised to get expert advice from Government authorities.

7. Health is the one condition for external beauty.

Young Germans are advised to be medically examined before embarking on marriage.

8. Marry only for love.

Prospective spouses are warned that money does not make for happiness.

But do not let your love to be blind. Be clear seeing and responsible. Intoxication of the senses is not love.

9. Look for a marriage partner, not a playmate.

Marriage is not a momentary game between two people but a permanent bond of deep significance for individuals and nations.

10. Healthy progeny is the meaning of marriage.

The nation needs from you at least three or four children for its assured existence. The more children you have the greater variety of family characteristics are revealed.

You will pass away, but what you pass on to your family remains. In them you celebrate your resurrection. Your folk live eternally.

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Sastri College

BREAKING-UP took place last night at 7.30 p. m. in the College Assembly Hall before a representative gathering of parents and well wishers.

Colour Not A Bad Thing

In an address to the Education Fellowship at Benoni last Tuesday night the Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh pleaded for better educational facilities for Indian woman and girls in the Union. "I think European South Africans will eventually become people of Colour," she said. "A little Colour is not a bad thing. To me a fair person is rather insipid. (Laughter.) "I do not advocate inter-marriage—far from it. The sun will do it. Many European families who have lived in South Africa for a few generations are as dark as Italians. They are darker than some Indians."

Holiday Soup Kitchens For Indian Children

Arrangements has been made for three soup kitchens for Indian children, one at Clairwood Indian Boys School, another at St. Aidans Indian Girls School, Sydenham, and the third at Carlisle Street Indian Boys School. These kitchens will be under the control of Mr. H. S. Done, Miss Howard, and Mr. Lawrence respectively.

Administration Of Personal Tax

A deputation from the Natal Indian Congress waited on the Natal Provincial Executive last Tuesday and made a plea for an amendment of the administration of the Personal Tax as affecting Indians. They desired that the administration should be made easier. The Executive "The Natal Mercury" was informed, was favourably impressed with the claims of the deputation and promised to consider the matter.

A Natal Born Indian In India

Mr. M. Obengia states in the course of his letter from London Hotel, Bombay:— I have reached Bombay after visiting Colombo, Kandy, Rameswaram, Madura, Trichnopoly, Tanjor, Madras, Bangalore Mysore, Bezwada, Hyderabad and Poona. While at Mysore I attended the Dasa-da Festival which is celebrated by the Maharaja of Mysore. It is a grand show the whole of the palace and streets are illuminated in such grand fashion it is beyond me to express in words. I also attended the Indian National Congress at the Abdal Gaffar Nagar. It is indeed more than a Nagar and well deserves the name because the township is well laid out with modern conveniences such as electric lights, water and streets, all

arranged in sections for the delegates from the different districts thousands of huts were built to house the delegates with mats of palm leaves and with roofs of the same material. Mahatmajee occupies one of the huts I made two attempts to meet him, on the first occasion he was asleep and on the second as I was sitting in his verandah he walked out in front of me to the conference and I did not want to detain him but was content with the dharson. I was suprised to see the amount of interest the people of India take in the Congress. I saw thousands of men, women and children attend day and night although the entrance fee was heavy being Rs2 to Rs5,000 each. It was interesting to see the lady volunteers work side by side with men in charge of entrance gates till midnight. The nagar was illuminated with electric lights. Near the Congress was the All India An Communal Award Conference which I attended and which was presided over by Babu Ramamanda Chatterjee, the talented and veteran editor of the *Mod. Rev.* Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya prefaced the opening of the Conference and concluded his speech by saying "I have confidence in the righteousness of my course, all that is needed is courage and perseverance until we win and we shall win." Everything is Indian in this country and we are welcomed in trains and trams, hotels, etc without any restrictions whatsoever, and Indians from Colombo are also wearing the National Garb or Swadeshi Clothing.

Christmas Party For Indian Children

"In order to be happy, you must not only take but give," said the Kunwarani Lady Maharaja Singh, when she addressed some 650 Indian children who were entertained by the Pretoria Indian Women's Association at a Christmas party at the National Zoological Gardens in Pretoria on Nov. 7. The Kunwarani was an active participator in the proceedings, taking the greatest interest in seeing that every child received his or her present. Mrs. P. Kincaid, who has done and is doing so much for Indian welfare in Pretoria, was with the Indian Women's Association, at the head of the organisation, as also Mr. H. B. Pickles, Principal of the Indian School, and his staff. The Kunwarani was garlanded on her arrival. Each child received a present from Father Christmas, a cracker, a packet of sweets and a "sucker," as well as buns and lemonade. There was a present for the Kunwarani to take home to her little girl Prem, and Charles Kincaid, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid, was given a tricycle by the

Indian Women's Association as a token of appreciation of his mother's work among the Indian women and children of Pretoria. The Kunwarani brought him a woolly dog. Those present included Mr. P. Kincaid (Commissioner for Asiatic Affairs), Mrs. Laura Ruxton and Mrs. E. L. Nicholson, from Johannesburg; Councillor and Mrs. J. J. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Pickles, Mrs. P. I. Hoogenbout, Dr. R. Bigalke (Director of the Zoological Gardens), Mrs. F. A. Donnolly, Mrs. Bob Maharaj (President of the Indian Women's Association), Mr. Cassim Adam, Mr. Bob Maharaj, Mr. Joshee, Mrs. Pillay and Mr. Krishna Pillay (who enacted the role of Father Christmas), Mr. H. J. Andrews, Mrs. A. C. Brink, Mrs. Duggall, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Termaak, Miss Peters, Miss Watson, Messrs. de Jagger, de Wet, Moon Samy, Shah and Patel. At the conclusion of the proceedings, Mr. Pickles thanked the Indian Women's Association on behalf of the children for the very happy afternoon spent by the little people.

A Grand Reception

Under the auspices of the Pretoria Islamic Society a grand reception was accorded to the eminent Muslim Divine, Maulana Mahomed Abdul Aleem Siddiqui in the Empire Hall on Dec. 6. Mr. Cassim Adam presided. Among others there was a fair representation of Europeans both ladies and gentlemen present. After the introduction by the chairman; Mr. Cook, the Deputy Mayor welcomed the guest of the evening and apologised for the absence of the Mayor. Other speakers included were Rev. Page Smith Advocate S. Price, Messrs Bob Maharaj, Allibhoy, Nana Sita, and Dawood Omar, The President then garlanded the Maulana Saheb and presented bouquets to the Deputy Mayor, Mayoress and other leading European ladies and gentlemen. His Holiness received a great ovation on rising to speak, he thanked them all for the honour they had done to him but considered his services insignificant to those of their ancestors. His mission was to serve humanity and bring about harmony and peace among the various peoples. Referring to racial discriminations in South Africa he said we should fit ourselves to deserve respect. Islam he said taught tolerance and then elucidated the fundamental principles of Islam. And on account of the lateness, states the Secretary, His Holiness did not exhaustively deal with the subject but it was evident with what he said that the audience was quite impressed and satisfied.

THE INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION COMMISSION CONGRESS MEMORANDUM

The following memorandum was submitted by the South African Indian Congress to the Indian Legislation Commission whose sittings took place recently in Johannesburg:—

THE disadvantages of our position in commerce and industry are such as to require certain general observations before we deal more particularly with the Commission's terms of reference.

The introduction of Indians into South Africa was itself a deliberate step taken in the interests of industry. The prosperity enjoyed by the sugar industry as a result of the employment of Indian labour is well known. In the wake of the indentured labourers came what are known as passenger Indians. It was not to be expected that our numbers would remain stationary, and in 1931 they reached an estimated total of 185,500. This not inconsiderable section of the population is, we would emphasise, without political power. We make no complaint in this respect at this stage of our history, but we do claim that it is particularly beholden on any Government to pay close attention to the representations of any section of the community which is unrepresented politically.

Although however our numbers are now considerable, we must point out that there is no substance in the apprehension sometimes expressed that the European is in danger of being swamped by the Indian. Since 1913, when the Immigration of Indians was finally prohibited, the increase in our population has been limited to the natural excess of births over deaths; whereas the European population continues to be swelled by the attractions of the country to white settlers. The following figures of population prove this contention:

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The increase in the Asiatic population since 1911 is 24%; in the European population, 43%.

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It will be seen that whereas the Asiatic population in Natal has increased by only 18% since 1911 the European population has nearly doubled itself.

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One further observation follows from the figures we have cited. As has been shown, the Indian problem is concentrated in Natal; in 1931 the percentage of Indians in that province to the total Indian population in the Union was 88. If the provincial barriers were raised and Indians were allowed to move freely throughout the Union, in course of time the concentration in Natal would in all probability be dissipated and the problem eased accordingly. While as we have shown Europeans now outnumber Indians in Natal and there is no danger of swamping by the latter, the flow of Indians from that province to other provinces where Indians are in an insignificant minority would necessarily facilitate their absorption into the general community. We suggest in short that all provinces should share the Indian question.

As to the position of Indians in commerce and industry, we would first refer to the following provision of the Cape-town Agreement of 1926:

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The principle of equal pay for equal work is meaningless unless there are equal opportunities of obtaining work. It is in this respect that the Indian community suffers its main disadvantage. In the first place, the adoption of the civilised labour policy—now often called, significantly enough, the white labour policy—has reacted adversely on Indian employment. It was not until recently that the Minister of Labour made it clear that the civilised labour policy did not exclude the employment of Indians. We are grateful for this exposition so far as the future is concerned, but harm has already been done. To give the most glaring example among Government departments, in 1924 there were some 1800 Indians employed on the Railways; by 1933 this number had fallen as low as 562. In other Government departments the total number of Indians employed in 1924 was 955; to-day there are only 217. In municipal employment the displacement of Indians has been less marked and up to 1931 was negligible; but in that year the Minister of Labour openly exhorted the Durban Town Council

to replace its Indian employees by Europeans. Thus in November 1931, the Durban Town Council dismissed 49 of its Indian employees. In all Government building contracts an "all-white" labour clause is introduced which forbids the employment of non-European workers. Further the white labour policy has had inevitable repercussions in the sphere of private employment. For example, in 1924 there were some 400 Indians employed in the Lion Match Factory in Durban, but by 1931 the number had fallen to 100. In this case it must be admitted that the introduction of modern machinery contributed greatly to the reduction; but this in itself illustrates a disadvantage under which the Indian labourer in that he lacks opportunities to fit himself for skilled work such as the running of machinery. In the Transvaal the Liquor Act of 1928 threatens Indian employment for the prohibition of the handling of liquor by Indians necessarily reduces their value as waiters and it has become difficult for them to secure employment in that capacity since the Act was passed.

Secondly, while our position in trade unionism has improved in recent years, we still lack experience and are not able to exert a due share of influence in this sphere. Up to 1928 the general policy of trade unions was to deny admission to Indians. In that year, the following negotiations between the South African Indian Congress and the South African Trade Union Congress, the principle was laid down of one union for each industry, and there is now no colour bar against our enrolment in some trade unions. Individual Indians however sometimes find it difficult to obtain admission to particular trade unions, and in some unions we are not adequately represented on the governing body.

Thirdly we do not enjoy equality of opportunity. Provision for Indian education is sadly deficient. Outside Durban, it was not until 1928 that Indian elementary education went as far as standard VI. Provision for technical education exists only in Durban itself, and this is limited so far as State funds are concerned to an annual grant of £400, which provides only for a few commercial courses of instruction. This means that Indians have no opportunity to fit themselves for skilled employment, a disability which is felt keenly in connection with the Apprenticeship Act. In the commercial distributive trade we are denied equality of opportunity by our relegation to localities of inferior class. This process is effected by exercise of the power to issue trading licences vested in municipal bodies. In Durban, for example, licences to Indians are issued for the Grey Street area and are refused for the West Street area. In the Transvaal similar discrimination is contemplated by the Asiatic Land Tenure Act of 1932. Obviously we cannot enjoy equality of opportunity when we are thus circumscribed.

(To be continued.)

INDIA'S CURATIVE PLANTS VEGETABLES AND MEDICINES

HERBAL remedies are among the most interesting of all the cures for human diseases. Vegetables and plants are linked with nature and the open air, so men cherish the belief that the kindly fruits of the earth furnish less noxious medicines than the animal kingdom or the depths of the earth. Yet castor oil and rhubarb and other terrors of infancy are of vegetable origin and most valuable remedies in the medicinal works of herbalists. In fact as one thinks about it one sees that for sickening efficacy vegetable medicines are quite at the head of the list. Compared with them the eye of newt and the toe of frog are not in the same class, and mineral salts are pleasant drinks. True, there are nations and peoples to whom the only medicine worth while is the one that is drastic and has a horrible taste, and ignorant people like strong medicines that can, so to speak, sit up and talk. In the opinion of these medicine tasters sweet and cloying vegetable remedies, used for children and the ancient, merely amuse the patient, and are not among the master drugs.

Here, in India, vegetable remedies are much in favour, and are worthy of attention, when synthetic drugs are pushing their way in the market and ruining the constitution of man. The vegetable medicines of India can furnish forth a chemist's shop with remedy for every disease under the sun. Some of these Indian remedies are world renowned: others are known only to the countryside and the village, and it is these drugs that are curious if horrible.

Rejuvenating Neem

Most of us who are residents in India are acquainted with *sena* and *chiretta*, but few of us know that the latter, well boiled in water, and set aside to cool, makes a lotion that will reduce and even break a fever. The uses of *chiretta* are many and great, but it is not a popular tonic among the poor, as it tends to produce a huge appetite. Apropos of tonics the sap of the *neem* tree is, among other things a rejuvenator of the first order. *Neem* trees, like walnuts, "weep" at stated intervals, and during this period this tree is surrounded by the old, the feeble and the halt, each with his little "lota" to carry away the life-giving juice. The sap is a stringent and bitter but a marvellous restorative. A more pleasant cooling tonic, which prevents heat apoplexy, is the juice of the unripe mango made into sherbet. The juice is extracted by pommelling and beating the mango till it is quite soft, and then cutting it and squeezing out the juice. This is an unequalled hot-

weather drink, and thins the blood of the lusty. A strengthening tonic for use after malaria and other fevers, which is also largely used for woman and children, is made by soaking 'ladies' fingers'—*bhindi*—overnight, that in the morning a cloying mass of stringy jelly is formed which is eaten with or without sugar and warms the cockles of the heart, and spur the lady of the house to fresh endeavours in scrubbing the cooking pots.

Another strengthening drink is made of cotton seed—the variety used as fodder for buffaloes. For human consumption this is taken and boiled and soaked overnight, then crushed and boiled again, strained and served hot. The flavour and colour is not unlike rich cocoa—in fact it is whispered by those in the know, that this cotton seed cocoa is freely used by intelligent mess cooks, who are also acquainted with certain substitutes for coffee, which have no medicinal virtue.

Plants And Population

Another vegetable medicament of great use in indigestion is the bitter thorny *karela* which when fried is popularly supposed to banish dyspepsia for ever and a day. One mouthful of this fritter is enough to banish appetite for several days, and there is no doubt that the prescription works its cure by the natural means of fasting. After all no medicine can be delicious—even *esap gol* jelly and *brel* fruit syrup as remedies for dysentery are more efficacious than tasty. Nature provides simple remedies for human ills but they are all more or less nasty, like nature's punishments for human ill-doing. Few people are really fond of garlic or chew it for pleasure, but there is a particularly strong variety, at its best in spring, which is a specific for rheumatism, and should be as largely used as celery seed or any other such vegetable remedy.

Cooling drinks and sherbets bulk largely in the vegetable pharmacy. Green tea is as valuable as blood letting in the spring of the year when blood pressure rises high, and the heating accumulations of the winter make men thick and unsociable. Cucumbers which operate mightily in other directions have cooling virtues, and are freely consumed in amazing quantities by young and old alike, as whole bazaars bear witness. Important sherbets are also made from prickly pears and the leaves of some kinds of cactus, known only to the faculty and the old wives of the village. Indiscriminate indulgence in cactus sherbet by the ignorant

would result in a decrease of the population. A favourite drink is rice starch and lime juice, which is valuable in fevers, and a broth of the leaves of turnips and radishes gives as much strength as its flavour. In fact there are few vegetables in India that have not been passed or squeezed into service for medicine of some kind or another. Occasionally it is the other kind—black magic and death-dealing dranghis, which have nothing to do with healing human ills, even if they put the ill-nature out of the way.—E. N. in *Statesman*.

Mr. J. Ramphal, son of Mr. B. Ramphal of Clare Estate, who is a teacher in the Bulawayo Government Indian School, is expected to arrive in Durban this evening to spend his Summer vacation with his parents.

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THE INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION COMMISSION

CONGRESS MEMORANDUM

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THE disadvantages of our position in commerce and industry are such as to require certain general observations before we deal more particularly with the Commission's terms of reference. The introduction of Indians into South Africa was itself a deliberate step taken in the interests of industry. The prosperity enjoyed by the sugar industry as a result of the employment of Indian labour is well known. In the wake of the indentured labourers came what are known as passenger Indians. It was not to be expected that our numbers would remain stationary, and in 1931 they reached an estimated total of 185,500. This not inconsiderable section of the population is, we would emphasise, without political power. We make no complaint in this respect at this stage of our history, but we do claim that it is particularly beholden on any Government to pay close attention to the representations of any section of the community which is unrepresented politically.

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IS MAHATMA GANDHI PLAYED OUT? A STUDY IN RETROSPECT

By

DR. PATTABHI SITARAMAYYA

(Continued from last week)

II

WHAT is the secret of this abiding influence of Gandhi over millions of men, women and children? He was born into an age when there is not merely political commotion but political chaos. "It would seem to be the will of God," as Lowell puts it, that from time to time the manhood of nations like that of individuals should be tried by great dangers or great opportunities. If the manhood be there, it makes the great opportunity out of the great danger, if it be not there, then the great danger out of the great opportunity." It was thus that Gandhi had his great opportunity out of the great dangers and had inaugurated a new revolution—not indeed a sanguinary one—but one that invited suffering instead of inflicting it, and sought to convert the enemy, not conquer him. He has preached from house tops the right yea, the duty of a civil rebellion while recognizing equally the right and duty of government's to hang men for it. He has set before him not merely the immediate object of abolishing slavery in India but the utter extirpation of all dogmas which sought to justify it in any shape—physical, political or economic. He has shown that subjection and slavery are a moral wrong, a political blunder and a practical misfortune. He has gone further and taught that "the best government in the world is that which governs least" and has worked for a government which is not based upon force from without, but dwells in every citizen as a vital principle. Unto this end he has all along addressed the intelligence of men, never their prejudice or passion, their sense of right, never their selfishness or ignorance. To him a moral wrong can never be local in its effects and principles alien to Truth and Non-Violence can never result in peace or prosperity to a nation. While preaching Non-Co-Operation and Satyagraha, he has always extended an out-stretched hand eager to grasp the hand of the opponent in a spirit of friendship. He is the real author of the Gandhi Irwin truce which, however, instead of being a graceful compromise, turned out to be a formula accepted with the lips but denied in life—a sort of "marriage at the altar and divorce at the Church door." He is like the engineer in the workshop who handles a variety of machines, and the slightest warning of danger finds him ever so alert in slipping the belt from the fast to the loose pulley. He is the first to recognise that the "ag-

gregate opinion of a nation moves slowly, for, like the old migrations of entire tribes it is encumbered with much household stuff. A thousand unforeseen things may divert or impede it. A hostile check or the temptation of a present convenience may lead in to settle far short of its original aim. But experience shows that the place of the wise general when not in action should be oftener in the rear or the centre than the extreme front. The secret of permanent leadership, it is said, is to know how to be moderate. If Gandhi is extreme people say he is mad, if he is at the centre, people ask whether he is not played out. Have they ever acknowledged that he is at any time 'played in' or that he has at all played the game?

(To be continued)

SPECIAL BY AIR MAIL

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Congressmen Number 60 Out Of 96 Elected Indians

(By Our Own Correspondent)

THERE is universal jubilation over the success of the Indian National Congress in the Assembly elections. Mahatma Gandhi's challenge at the Round Table Conference that the representatives selected by the Government were not the real representatives of the people has been thoroughly vindicated. There has been a clean sweep of several such persons from the election contest who posed to represent India for framing her constitution. They were there to help our rulers in retarding India's march towards Purna Swaraj. Malviyaji's Anti-Award party has secured 6 seats. Prominent among the reactionaries defeated are Sir R. K. Shanmugam, President of the Legislative Assembly, Dewan Bahadur Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru, Mr. Jagatnarayanlal, Dr Moonje, Raja Bahadur Krishnamacharya, Hari Bilas Sarda, Hari Singh Gour, Dr. Shafat Ahmed Khan and Raja Hyder Zaman Khan. The success of Mr. Asaf Ali from the Delhi constituency is a clear vindication of the joint electorate. Dr. Khan Saheb, brother of the Frontier Gandhi, has succeeded from a province where Muslims form an overwhelming majority. This shows that the Muslims masses are for the Congress. The Malabar constituency with a caste Hindu majority has elected Mr. Samuel Aaron, a Christian, and thereby demonstrated that the interests of the minority are safe in the hands of the Congress. Mr. Sami Veekatachalam defeated Sir S. K. Shanmugam in Merchants Constituency and thus gave a fitting reply to the Ottawa arrangements.

J. P. C. Report

The Congress wanted to reject the White Paper but a more retrograde scheme of the the Joint Parliamentary

committee is published by the Government. The fate of the Simon Report is wellknown. A similar one is ready for the J. P. C. report which postpones federation, sets at nought the fiscal autonomy and has made provincial autonomy a farce by the introduction of second chambers.

CORRESPONDENCE

Points From Letters

X. Y. Z.—You have not sent your name and address and the point raised by you is answered in our note last week.

Haribhai Margem—We are not aware of any such Trusts granting scholarships in South Africa to Indians. Your best course is to write to the Education Department, P. M. Burg.

How Tailors Are Hit

V. D. L., from Ladysmith writes complaining that it is not fair for "General Dealers" to do the work of "Tailors" under their licence and thereby usurp the trade of the latter and thus deprive them of their livelihood. The "Tailors" are licensed and they need protection from the authorities. He fails to see on what grounds storekeepers do tailoring work when they are not licensed as such. He thinks it is high time that the Tailors had a Union to prevent such intrusion and also to protect their own interests.

Challenge Of A Rationalist

Sheik Obillie, writes stating that "Rationalist" who recently challenged in these columns to prove the existence of God, ought to now be satisfied by the article published in the INDIAN OPINION of Nov. 30, under the heading "God or no God." It is a fitting reply he states, to the points raised by Rationalist. He has further sent us a long discourse under the caption "And there is no God!" from Bibby's Annual by Prof. E. L. T. Harris-Bickford which at present for want of space we are not able to publish.

South African Indian Congress

All constituent Bodies please take notice that the Annual Conference of the South African Indian Congress will be held at Durban on the 19th and 20th days of January 1935.

Agenda—

1. Transvaal Land Tenure Act.
2. Colonisation Enquiry Report.
3. Slums Act-Housing.
4. Entry of Condoneses wives and children.
5. Labour Legislation.
6. Election of Officials
7. General.

A. I. KAJEE & S. R. NAIDOO.
Joint Hon. Secretaries.